

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 6 was objected to because of an informality. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367). Claims 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke et al. in view of Fromson et al. (US 6,062,138). Claim 6 has been amended to correct an informality. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify the term “carrier sleeve layer.” Claims 15, 16 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice.

New claims 20 to 24 have been added. Claims 21 to 23 correspond to previous allowable claims 6, 8 and 9.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367).

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify that the carrier sleeve layer is a rigid layer for supporting the tubular shape of the blanket, as described for example at [0025].

Behnke does not show such a carrier sleeve layer.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections**

Claims 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke et al. in view of Fromson et al. (US 6,062,138).

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 10, 11 and 14 is respectfully requested in view of the comments with respect to claims 1 and 12.

Appl. No. 10/617,639  
Amdt. dated November 9, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2004

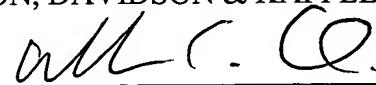
Withdrawn Claims 3 and 17

Reinstatement and allowance of withdrawn dependent claims 3 and 17 is respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,  
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